

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney has been requested by the Applicant to assume responsibility for this patent application. Appended to this response is an Appointment of Associate Attorney that directs all future correspondence to the address associated with Customer Number 29683.

Pending claims 1-25 have each been amended to correct typographical errors, to remove "steps of" phrases and to remove the phrase "a means". These amendments are deemed to be cosmetic in nature and scope, and were thus not made for a reason related to patentability. As such, the full range of equivalents for all of the elements of all of the claims should remain intact.

Claims 1-25 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the newly cited Nicholas et al. (U.S. 6,593,944) in view of the previously cited Morgenthaler (US 6,310,609). This rejection is respectfully disagreed with, and is traversed below.

Nicholas et al. describe a system for use with a PDA or similar small-sized display screen device (including a cellular telephone (col. 9, line 66)) where frame identifiers (tag keywords <frameset> and </frameset>) are detected in a HTML file and, if found, geometric frame representations are displayed, thereby giving the user the opportunity to select a given one of the frames for display on the small size display screen (see, generally, col. 12, lines 7-60). Selecting a displayed geometric frame identifier can be done by pressing a specific key, clicking a mouse, or by pointing with a stylus or pen. More specifically, in col. 13, lines 25-34, Nicolas et al. state:

"The application provides a user interface to the user. Utilizing the user interface, the user can select a geometric frame identifier by inputting the label number corresponding to the geometric frame identifier, pressing a specific key (on a keyboard, a keypad, or a set of function keys 75) which is associated with the label number, clicking a mouse while a cursor is positioned over a specific geometric frame identifier, pointing at a specific geometric frame identifier (on the small-sized electronic display device) with a stylus or pen, or in any other appropriate manner." (Emphasis added)

Figure 7 shows hyperlink elements 770A, 770B and 770C in Frames 1-3, respectively. Selecting a hyperlink element is used to link or jump to another desired Web page (see col. 14, lines 57-59, and col. 15, lines 13-15 and 35-37).

During a Web browsing session a user can provide a desired URL. More specifically, what is stated at col. 11, lines 52-67, is the following:

"In accordance with the present invention, a Web browsing session is initiated by the user who provides a URL 780 associated with a desired Web page 720 which the user requests to view on the small-sized electronic display device 105 coupled to the personal digital assistant 100, whereas the URL 780 is provided to the application (e.g., Web browser) which is configured to execute the present invention and which is operating on the personal digital assistant 100. The user can provide the URL 780 by inputting the URL 780, pressing a specific key (on a keyboard, a keypad, or a set of function keys 75) which is associated with the URL 780, clicking a mouse while a cursor is positioned over a hyperlink element associated with the URL 780, pointing at a hyperlink element associated with the URL 780 (on the small-sized electronic display device) with a stylus or pen, or in any other appropriate manner." (emphasis added)

Exactly how a specific key would be associated with a frame identifier or a URL is not disclosed or suggested by Nicholas et al. Further, and with specific regard to a hyperlink, the only disclosure as to hyperlink selection is "clicking a mouse while a cursor is positioned over a hyperlink element associated with the URL" and "pointing at a hyperlink element...with a stylus or pen". Thus, it may be assumed that the hyperlink elements 770A, 770B and 770C in Figure 7 would be selected in the same way, i.e., by "clicking a mouse" or by pointing at them "with a stylus or pen".

In any event, the Examiner is correct in stating that Nicolas et al. do not specifically teach "illuminating at least one character-entry pressure point having a character encoding".

The Examiner then uses the commonly assigned Morgenthaler patent for purportedly teaching the subject matter that is missing from Nicolas et al., and states that it would have been obvious

to one skilled in the art to combine these teachings to arrive at the claimed invention.

It is respectfully pointed out that in accordance with the commonly assigned Morgenthaler U.S. Patent:

"By selectively illuminating one or more of the light sources, the associated key will be identified to the user. By illuminating only those keys which provide valid responses for any given operation, the operator is guided through the proper operation of the telephone without referring to the written manual or user's guide. Moreover, by identifying the proper keys to accomplish a particular menu command sequence, the user may more quickly complete the menu selection and is less likely to initiate an undesired command by pressing a wrong key." (col. 5, lines 43-52, emphasis added); and

"If no keys are pressed, the lights remain off, as shown in step 406. However, in the event a key is pressed by the user, the user interface illuminates the available keys in step 410 such that the user may easily identify the keys which will perform a valid function." (col. 6, lines 19-23, emphasis added).

As is stated in the Abstract, the user interface of Morgenthaler includes "a means for identifying the appropriate keys on the keypad which correspond to the step or steps required to activate a desired operation to be performed within the device."

That is, the illumination of keypad keys in Morgenthaler is beneficially used to aid the user in activating desired operations and functions, such as by navigating through a particular menu command sequence without having to refer to a user's manual or guide.

This being the case, it is clearly not admitted that one skilled in the art would be led to combine the teachings of Nicolas et al. and Morgenthaler as done by the Examiner. As was stated above, Nicholas et al. are silent as to how a specific key would be associated with a frame identifier or a URL, and as to hyperlink selection, the disclosure states that this is done by "clicking a mouse" or by pointing "with a stylus or pen". It is thus not seen how one skilled in the art would be led to look to the menu selection and navigation function of Morgenthaler, that uses the illumination

of those keys required to perform a desired function (and who does not mention any constraints imposed by the size of the display 102). In Morgenthaler, the keys that are illuminated are "the appropriate keys on the keypad which enable a particular command to be performed within the telephone" (see col. 3, lines 53-56). In the Nicholas et al. device they are concerned with the formatting of a Web page to a small sized display, and accomplish this by identifying frames and displaying indications of the frames, thereby giving the user the opportunity to select a particular frame to be displayed. In this context Nicholas et al. are not looking to provide the user with the opportunity to activate a device function or a device command, or to navigate through a device menu. As such, it is submitted that one skilled in the art would not be led, based on a reading of Nicholas et al., to the teaching of Morgenthaler as it pertains to the use of illuminated keypad keys in phone-related menu navigation functions.

This being the case, the independent claims 1, 10 and 17 are clearly not rendered obvious or unpatentable by the Examiner's proposed combination of the small screen user interface of Nicholas et al. and the phone menu navigation aid of Morgenthaler, that uses illuminated keypad keys to guide a user through the various menu levels and selections. This is true despite the fact that Morgenthaler mentions the use of her invention in other devices, such as wireless communicators which may include an Internet access function, as these other uses are said to also have a keypad "which directs an internal command sequence" (see col. 9, lines 16-25). Nicholas et al. do not disclose that they are interested in a small screen user interface that "directs an internal command sequence" of their PDA, and at least for this reason alone they would not be drawn to the use of selective keypad key illumination, as proposed by Morgenthaler.

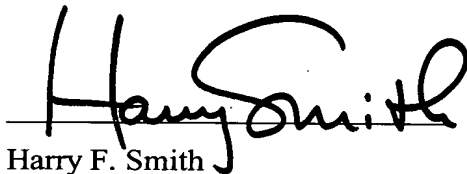
In that the independent claims 1, 10 and 17 are all clearly patentable over the proposed combination of Nicholas et al. and Morgenthaler, then the dependent claims 2-9, 11-16 and 18-25 are also all clearly patentable. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejection, and to allow claims 1-25 as now clarified by amendment.

Claims 26-29 are newly added, and at least for the reasons argued above are also deemed to be patentable over the proposed combination of Nicholas et al. and Morgenthaler. More specifically,

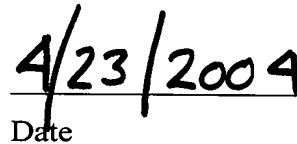
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claim 26 is drawn to a wireless device that comprises a CPU "programmed to parse a file to identify at least one occurrence of a string representing a hyperlink and to associate individual ones of identified string occurrences with individual ones of colors associated with a manual user data entry device of said wireless device." Claim 27 extends claim 26 by stating that the CPU is further programmed "to illuminate said manual user data entry device with a sufficient number of colors to represent the identified string occurrences." Support for these newly added claims can be found at least in Figs. 2, 3 and 4B, and at page 6, line 22, to page 8, line 33, and no new matter is added. A favorable consideration that results in the allowance of claims 26-29 is also respectfully requested.

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